GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3034
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Eco-Sensitive Zone
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large cutting/felling of trees in the eco-sensitive zone near the eastern gate of Taj Mahal;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken against those held responsible in this regard;
(c) whether the National Green Tribunal has issued notice to the Ministry in this regard;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto: and
(e) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that no unauthorized construction activities are permitted in the eco-sensitive zone near the said monument?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d) A newspaper report regarding cutting of around 4,000 trees around Taj Mahal and about 8000 trees in Babupur forest block of Agra Division had appeared on 3rd July, 2015. The National Green Tribunal also took up this issue suo moto and directed, inter alia, to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to file a complete and comprehensive report. As per the information received from the State Government a three member enquiry committee was constituted to submit a report. The committee has submitted the final report.

(e) In compliance with the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 30.12.1996, the Ministry issued a notification setting the Taj Trapezium Zone Authority (TTZA) in 1999 under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection and improvement around the Taj Mahal at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The TTZA has been empowered to exercise powers under Section 5 (related to direction) as well as Section 19 (related to prosecution) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to implement its mandate.
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